

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 3-8 and 11-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12 were amended to include limitations from claim 2. No new matter has been added. Claim 2 was consequently canceled as redundant. Claims 3 and 5 were amended only to correct their dependency.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' counsel during several telephone conversations discussing options for placing this application in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kocher U.S. Patent No. 5,278,783 and Luyster U.S. Patent No. 6,182,216. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Because claims 1 and 12 were amended to include limitations from claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in immediate condition for allowance and all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions about this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

If additional fees are required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account
No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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